

Minutes
Prescription Work Group
April 11, 2007

Present: Tom Werner, Kathy Sargent, Melinda Malott, Vicki Mills, Kim Vander Weyden and Dianne Vander Weyden

Chair Position: Tom encouraged the members present to be thinking about the chair position of our group. The ICCC has developed by-laws that will be presented to the larger coalition on May 23, 2007. The by-laws address membership to that group. The membership will be comprised of each of the committee chairs and 5 additional members.

Medication Resource List: Version 1.2 of the Prescription resource has been released and distributed to many local agencies, organizations, practitioners and consumers. The group reviewed who has currently received the list as well as additional targets for the list. A press release was sent from the Frederick County Health Department's public information officer. She has an extensive media distribution list.

Todd Johnson and Bonnie Bramwell developed a one-sheet resource list of agencies that provide face-to-face assistance with immediate help and or payment assistance for prescriptions. That list will be included with the next version of the resource guide.

Group Membership: There was much discussion about the need to recruit a physician and or pharmacist for our work group. It is the general consensus that a member with such credentials could have a greater impact in regards to advocating for the cause in the Frederick Community. Tom will call the pharmacist at Walkersville pharmacy to see if he will participate.

Membership Directory: Melinda is creating a membership directory. Please send her your current contact information as requested in a previous e-mail.

Outreach: PharmD Carol Malkowitz from Clifton T. Perkins center will make a presentation to the physicians seeking CME's on September 14, 2007. Carol has extensive knowledge of drug cost comparisons.

Tom suggested while she is town it would be good to have her present to those who may not be able to attend the CME presentation. He will check with Dr. Malkowitz to see if that is possible. An evening presentation was suggested since most practitioners would be unable to attend. Another option that Tom will explore with the hospital librarian is that the CME presentation be recorded and transferred to DVD so that multiple copies of the presentation can be distributed to physicians and clinicians in the community

Time Gap Issue:

It was suggested that the group members could get in contact with a few of the manufactures that produce some of the high cost drugs and see if they will provide significant quantities of samples to the ER. Melinda to compile a list of the top 10-20 high cost drugs and their manufacturer for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2007 from 4-5:30